

various Bell telephone interests had been consolidated. Ever since that time the telephone combination has been under investigation by the Department of Justice. It has been constantly assailed by Clarence H. Mackay because of the disadvantage the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company was placed in through its alleged lack of the telephone facilities of its rival, the Western Union.

Independents Complain. Independent telephone interests, finding it arduous to compete with local Bell companies, because trunk lines of the combination were closed to them, complained bitterly. Members of Congress, from time to time, have proposed investigations or urged the Department of Justice to act on general principles.

Finally, in the last few weeks, began movement for government ownership of telephone and telegraph lines. Representative Lewis, of Maryland, who initiated this move, which was introduced by Postmaster General Burleson in his annual report just published, recognized the importance of the trunk lines and proposed that they be acquired by the government.

In the course of the fight carried on by the Postal Company, and the independent telephone companies, there have been numerous law suits and complaints to public service commissions, the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Department of Justice. A suit under the Sherman law, charging discrimination against the independents on the Pacific Coast is now in the Federal courts, and hearings in connection with it have recently been held in this city.

Financial men said to-day that the separation of the company into its parts would not be a great difficulty because of their distinct organization. The difficulty would be, however, in devising an equitable plan for distribution of the securities.

The Department of Justice no longer will permit a distribution of stock of the subsidiaries to the stockholders of the main company pro rata, as in the tobacco and standard oil cases. The Supreme Court in the United States dissolution went on record against this.

An Economic Mistake.

Former Attorney-General George W. Wickham, when he heard the news, said:

"I can't say I am pleased, because I think it will be an economic mistake. I see no reason why telephone and telegraph companies should not be combined as one concern."

However, the action of the Wilson administration in bringing about this separation is not a new thing. When I was Attorney-General there were a number of such dissolutions brought about by the efforts of Mr. Taft and myself.

Mr. Wickham said that, as Attorney-General, complaints were made to him against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and he turned the case over to the Interstate Commerce Commission for investigation.

"The result of the investigation I saw," he said, "has brought about the dissolution by Congress."

Mr. Wickham, counsel for the government in the steel trust cases, said that the news interested him exceedingly, but that he could not give an opinion on account of his connection with the steel litigation.

George G. Ward, vice-president of the Mackay companies, when told the news, said:

"This is exactly what the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company has been contending for for years. We have contended that there was discrimination against us on the part of the telephone company, and that this discrimination would continue as long as the interests remained united."

Considered by Officials.

Washington, December 20.—The greatest antitrust victory of President Wilson's administration thus far—the voluntary dissolution of the so-called telephone trust—commanded the attention of all administration officials to-day.

Next to the fact that all the features, against which the government was preparing an antitrust suit, will be eliminated with the consent and cooperation of "big business" itself with-

Doings of Santa



Santa Claus has taken charge of our mail order business.

He'll see that you get just what you order—promptly, too.

Delivery of gift things made free, anywhere!

Stock of elegant silk umbrellas and walking sticks.

Umbrellas for women—with novelty handles.

Rich Scarfs and Mufflers.

Silk Socks.

Silk Handkerchiefs.

Silk Shirts.

Silk Suspenders.

Silk Pajamas.

Shaving Sets and Mirrors.

Toilet Articles in leather roll.

House Coats and Robes.

Jaeger Blankets.

Thermal Bottles.

Chaste Jewelry Sets—in boxes.

Gifts in leather.

Never before have bags and suit cases—both plain and fitted—been so active.

It may be because our display of these things is specially attractive.

You can't make a mistake here.

All gifts exchangeable.

C. H. Dwyer

out years of court fighting, the principal topic of discussion in administration circles to-day was, what effect will the dissolution have on the movement for government ownership?

It has been generally expected in Congress that such a plan would soon be urged as an administration measure.

With the voluntary dissolution of the so-called trust actually under way, however, Attorney-General McKee, and the Interstate Commerce Commission to-day prepared to scan the details of the separation of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from the Western Union Telegraph Company, and the work of disentangling the telephone and telegraph throughout the country which threatened Federal action.

Not only has the telephone and telegraph company agreed to give up its control of the Western Union, but it has agreed not to extend its monopoly of local companies in the telephone field. But the most important point to the American people, officials declare, is the telephone company's agree-

ment to extend the use of its toll lines to all local companies.

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U. S. MAY HELP GIVE BRITAIN NEXT PREMIER

Son of Former Miss Jerome, of New York, Considered for Unionist Ministry.

London, December 20.—There is a great possibility that the next Prime Minister of Great Britain will be the son of an American woman.

That man is Winston Churchill, now First Lord of the Admiralty, the son of Lady Randolph Churchill, formerly the beautiful Miss Jennie Jerome, of New York.

Not that Mr. Asquith contemplates voluntarily relinquishing the burdens of the office of the Premier, much as it is said would like to do so. He is not the kind of man, to quote Abraham Lincoln, "to swap horses in midstream."

Mr. Asquith will see the home-rule bill passed finally into operation next April, or he will die with his cabinet fighting in the attempt.

But there is one thing certain he does not want to do, and that is to make a fresh appeal to the country on the home-rule question. If forced to do so—and many believe this event will be inevitable—it is almost certain that a Unionist government will be returned, and with it Winston Churchill at its head.

For a long time the signs have been wanting to show which way the wind was blowing for the adventuresome young first lord. Day by day political events multiply to show that he is getting restless in the ranks of the Liberal party, and at the same time the Liberal party is becoming highly nervous about him.

Mr. Churchill's yachting trips with Austen Chamberlain, his frequent dinners with F. E. Smith, who is one of the principal hopes of the Unionists; his week-ends with his cousin, the Duke of Marlborough, whose anxiety to hold office in the next Unionist government is almost painful; and the fact that the tale of the trend of Churchill, besides proving very trying to radical nerves.

It is not that these social amenities are in themselves disturbing, but, reinforced by other signs, they betoken coming alienation from the advanced Liberal policy. Since his transference from the Home Office to the Admiralty they are a constant source of glow and irritation to his party. Coupled with this is Mr. Churchill's well-known penchant for faraway being on the winning side, and the fact that the Unionist party needs him badly.

Rebukes of different kinds have, from time to time, been addressed to Mr. Churchill by the various party organs. He has been reproved even for taking a trip in an aeroplane. Others have commented on his spacious ideas for a great navy and now the Daily Chronicle, one of the staunchest organs of the present government, attacks him for his "views on home-rule settlement that will be acceptable to Unionists."

The Liberal party, adds the Chronicle, will not "accept its policy of home rule from the First Lord of the Admiralty."

Eight years ago Mr. Churchill alienated himself from the Unionist party, not because of any violent conflict with the principles of the party, but because he saw no prospect of his own progress in Unionist councils, together with his insatiable passion for power. These same reasons will almost inevitably drive him back again into the Unionist party.

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